SONG OF THE ALL-WOOL SHIRT.

My father bought an undershirt
Of bright and flamiug red—
"All wool, I'm ready to assert,
Fleece dyed," the merchant said,
"Your size is thirty-eight, I think
A forty you should get,
Since all-wool goods are bound to shrink
A trifle when they are wet."

That shirt two weeks my father wore—
Two washings, that was all—
From forty down to thirty-four
It shrank like leaf in fall.
I wore it then a day or two,
But when 'twas washed again
My wife said, "Now 'twill only do
For little brother Ben."

A fortnight Ben squeezed into it,
At last he said it hurt;
We put it on our babe—the fit
Was good as any shirt.
We ne'er will wash it more while yet
We see its flickering light,
For if again that shirt is wet
'Twill vanish from our sight.

—*Chicago News.*

Flashes of Fun.

—A Marlboro young man promished to take the affirmative side of a discussion before the lyceum if he could choose the question. This was agreed to, and he decided on: "Will gunpowder explode?"

—"A sixteen-year old girl" in the Boston *Globe* asked for a remedy for too hard hands, and a "Mother" in Malden sent in the following heroic remedy: A sixteen-year old girl can soften and whiten her hands by soaking them in dish-water three times a day.

—"Your fare, young lady," said the stage driver, as a pretty miss stepped from his vehicle and was tripping away. "Oh, thank you," responded the absent-minded little beauty; "I think your mustache becomes you real well, too." She got her ride free.

—"What is the price of this axle grease?" asked a new clerk of a grocery dealer; "there is no mark on it." "It depends on your customer; if he asks for axle grease, charge him fifteen cents a pound, but if he wants butter, make it thirty-eight cents."—*Philadelphia Call.*

—A farmer was hoeing hard on his patch of land when one of those town loafers approached the fence. "Hello, Farmer B., what do you think of the outlook?" "What outlook?" "Why, the business outlook." "Didn't know there was one." "We are all thinking about it down at the store, and they sent me to hear what you had to say." "Oh, yes, I see; well, tell 'em if they will stop talking and go to hoeing that the country will prosper without any outlook. Do you hear?"

"Yes, sir," said Jones to Smith, "as men grow in age and experience they advance in knowledge." "I don't think so," replied Smith. "Don't think so. That's rather singular. The opinion I hold on the subject is the universal opinion." "It may be, but I have my own opinion, nevertheless, and it is that the younger we are the more we know. Why, when I was a youth I knew twice as much as my father. Now I am aged and I don't know half as much as my son."

The other night on an Arkansas railroad train a passenger called the conductor and asked: "Are we on time?" "Yes." "Glad. Are we on the track?" "I don't know, but I'll go forward and ask." He went away, and, returning, said: "I am informed that we left the track about five miles back. We are now runrunning on the country dirt road, and if we don't meet a wagon we'll be all right. You see that there is a big bend in the road back here and we save time by taking a short cut."

—An Irishman, who was a dealer in a small way, and kept a little donkey and a cart, came on one occasion to a bridge where a toll was levied, but to his disappointment, found that he had not money enough to pay. A thought struck him. He unharnessed the donkey, and put it into the cart. Then getting between the shafts himself, he pulled the cart, with the donkey standing on it, to the bridge. In due course he was hailed by the toll-collector. "Hey, my man," cried the latter. "Whaur's yer toll?" "Bedad," said the Irishman, "jist ax the droiver."

THE COUNTRY'S PROGRESS.

The following statistics show the growth of the country since the year 1860:

Twenty-five years ago we were 30,000,000 people; now we are over 50,000,000.

Then we had 141 cities and towns of over 8,000 inhabitants; now we have 286 of such cities and towns. Then the total population of our cities was 5,000,000; now it is about 12,000,000.

Our coal mines then produced 14,000,000 tons; now 85,000,000 tons, or six times as much.

The iron product amounted to 900,000 tons of ore; to-day it foots up over 8,000,000 tons a year—almost a ninefold increase.

In 1860 our metal industries employed about 53,000 hands, consumed $100,000,000 worth of material, and turned out about $180,000,000 in annual products. To-day the same industries employ 300,000 hands, consume $380,000,000 of material, and their annual product amounts to $660,000,000 a year.

In 1860 the wood industries employed 130,000 persons; to-day they employ 340,000, while the value of their annual product has trebled.

The woolen industry employed 60,000 persons then, and now employs 160,000 while our home mills, which produced goods of the value of $80,000,000 in 1860, and now turn out an annual product worth $270,000,000.

Finally there is cotton. In 1860 we imported 227,000,000 yards of cotton goods; in 1880 we only imported 70,000,000 yards. In the meantime the number of hands employed in American cotton mills has increased to 200,000, and we export over 150,000,000 yards of cotton goods a year, instead of importing 227,000,000 yards as we used to do.

The silk industry employed 5,000 persons; now it employs 35,000, seven times as many.

We import no more silk goods now than we did in 1860, but our own mills, which produced goods of the value of $60,000,000 then, now turn out a product of over $40,000,000 yearly.

In 1860, 12,000 persons were employed in American pottery and stoneware works; to-day about 36,000 are employed in this industry.

The chemical industry, which employed 6,000 persons then, now employs 30,000.

In the meantime we have nearly five times as many miles of railways, and double the number of farms, and yielding more than double the number of bushels of cereals.

In the production of sheep we had 22,000,000 of them in 1860; to-day we have over 40,000,000 of them; and whereas we then produced in this country 60,000,000 pounds of wool, now we produce 240,000,000 pounds.

Finally, the total of our exports has doubled. In 1860 it stood at $400,000,000, and now it stands at about $900,000,000 — *Philadelphia Commercial List.*

FEEDING HORSES.

A good horseman writes that his method of treating both farm and driving horses, and a method which he has found to be a good one after many years's practice, is to give no hay in the morning, only a feed of grain; at dinner time we give a good mess of cut feed, and at night another feed of cut food or a feed of grain. Just before retiring for the night or soon after the horses have cleaned up their other food, we fill their mangers with good, sweet hay, free from briars thistles, trash and mustiness, being particular to give the driving horses clear timothy hay, and the other horses—the work animals—either the same or that which is mixed with not more than one-half clover, and good hay at that. By this means the horses are always in a good condition to work, are given plenty of time to eat the single daily feed of hay we allow them, and can endure more work and longer drives than those which are stuffed with hay at every meal. —*N. Y. Times.*

—It was on the piazza of a fashionable seaside hotel. Madam Crœsus, who had just come from her cottage, over a long stretch of concrete walk, seemed decidedly warm. "Don't you find it tiresome to come so far for your meals?" asked a lady. "Oh, I would not mind it," was the reply, "if those consecrated pavements were not so hot."

THE CORN CROP OF 1885.

The corn crop of 1885, according to the returns to the Department of Agriculture, reached the largest total yield ever reported—1,936,000,000 bushels. The next largest yields were those of the preceding year, 1,795,000,000 bushels, of 1880, 1,717,434,000 bushels. The average price per bushel on the farm, as reported in December last, was 32.8 cents; and this was the lowest price ever reported, except in 1878, when it fell to 31.8 cents, from the accumulating effect of several heavy crops in succession.

The total home value in December of the crop of. 1885 was $635,674,630, and this gain is the smallest total sum realized by the farmers of the United States for any crop of corn grown since 1879, the value reached in 1880 being $679,714,499; in 1881 $759,482,170; in 1882, $782,638,000; in 1883, $648,000,000; and in 1884, $640,735,859. The crop of 1881 was the nearest a failure ever recorded, the average yield per acre being but 18.6 bushels, whereas the general average since 1871 has been about 26 bushels. In 1882 the yield was still a little below the average, being 24.6 bushels; yet the total value on the farm of these two successive light crops was over $265,000,000 greater than that of the two enormous crops of 1884 and 1885.

KILL THE LICE.

Every spring we see in all the papers inquiries how to destroy lice on live-stock. Some have patent nostrums, some advise snuff, tobacco, carbolic acid, coal oil, some of the essential oils, etc. All these may be a sure thing, but are either expensive, nauseating or unsafe. Simple remedies are plenty and safe. Perhaps the best is old brine. Fish brine is the best, or beef or pork brine, either to be reduced a little with water. Any old rancid grease, in which fry a few onions, is a sure thing, rubbed well along the back and around the head. Look out for the lice on all young stock in the spring.

Perhaps no feed for poultry is equal to an occasional feed of onions, to preserve health and rid them of lice; they penetrate the whole system, enter into the perspiration and thus drive out the vermin, which we think is the greatest pest of the poultry yard. Some buy patent nest-eggs, simply a hollow glass egg stuffed with cotton and scented with carbolic acid. A spoonful of sulphur in the nest is equally as good. Without something of the kind in the nest of the setting hen, the young chicks are apt to come off covered with lice, which may soon destroy them.—*Farm-Fireside.*

USE OF SALT AS A FERTILIZER.

All plants contain a certain quantity of salt, or the elements of which salt is composed, viz., chloride and soda; therefore salt furnishes food for plants, and is consequently a fertilizer. But it has the most remarkable effects on some crops, as clover and grass, cabbage and beets, all sorts of roots, and wheat and oats. Applied to grain crops it seems to help these to procure abundance of silica, for it produces a stiff straw; it also makes the grain clear and thin-skinned. Being extremely soluble, it should be used when the crops are in a growing condition, which is early in spring. For clover 200 pounds to the acre is used, for wheat 300 or 400 pounds; it is most useful for wheat in rich, damp soil, as it prevents the grain from lodging. For cabbage, mangels, beets and turnips 600 pounds per acre is used. It seems to be most effective on light soils.—*Ex.*

THE ORIGIN OF THE AMERICAN DOG.—Dr. A. S. Packard has contributed to the September number of the *American Naturalist*, a paper of universal interest on the origin of Americans dogs. He concludes that, though the impression that the domestic dog of the Old World has descended from the wild species distinct from the wolf, may be well founded in America, the evidence tends to prove that the Esquimau and other domestic varieties of dogs were domesticated by the aborigines and used by them, long anterior to the discovery of the continent by Europeans, the varieties in question originating from the gray wolf or the prairie wolf. The subject is fully illustrated by quotations from the accounts of the early explorers.